<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-4, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-32 and 34-38 are pending. Claim 33 has been cancelled. Each of the independent claims has been amended to clarify that the recited queue is configured to contain production data directed to multiple production devices. The recited queue can simultaneously contain first production data directed to a first production device and second production data directed to a second production device. In other words, the recited queue serves as a common queue for multiple production devices. Support for the amendments can be found by viewing Fig. 6 which illustrates an interface 96 for a queue. Queue interface 96 contains production data for five different jobs each directed to a different production device. Fig. 6 also shows a status interface 94 for the chosen production device "Printer A" selected through the queue interface 96. In view of the amendments and following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's thoughtful reconsideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103: The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 under §103 as being unpatentable over US Pub. 2002/0138558 to Ferlitsch in view of USPN 6,337,745 issued to Aiello.

**Claim 1** is directed to a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment and, as amended, recites the following acts:

1.    providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

2.    placing first production data and second production data received from a one or more clients in a the queue, the first production data including first production options for a first target document identified by one of the one or more clients, the second production data including second

production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients;

3. generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, the first production data to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices ;

4. presenting the queue interface to the client;

5. generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface; and

6. presenting the status interface to the client.


Claim 1 includes one or more acts not taught by Fertlisch and Aiello. In particular, Claim 1 recites providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices. Claim 1 also recites generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue. The first production data is to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices.

Ferlitsch discusses print queues 45 and 55 maintained by clients 40 and 50. *See, e.g.* Ferlitsch, Fig. 2. However, Ferlitsch expressly states "Clients 40 and 50 keep one or more queues of spooled print jobs per accessible printing device." Fertlisch, paragraph [0042]. In other words, each of Ferlitsch's queues 45 and 55 are device specific corresponding to a single printer. Each contains print jobs directed to its corresponding printer.

Claim 1 also recites generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface. The Examiner admits Fertilsch fails to teach this act. Instead, the Examiner relies on Aiello. However, a simple review of Aiello's Fig. 9 reveals that Aiello discusses the display

of queue interfaces 160 for devises selected in a status interface 140. Looking at Aiello's Fig. 6, status interface 140 for various printers and servers is displayed. Moving to Fig. 9, a user has selected "Job Queue" 158 for a drop down "view" menu 156 provided by the status interface 140. The queue interface 160 is displayed as a result. Aiello's status interface 140 is not generated for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface 160. While Aiello's queue interface 160 provides status information, that status information is not a status interface generated for a chosen printer selected through the queue interface 160. Aiello mentions nothing of generating any type of interface for a device selected through the queue interface 160.

Consequently, Fertlitsch and Aiello fail to teach or suggest:

- generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, the first production data to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices, and
- generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Ferlitsch and Aiello as are Claims 2-3 and 5-7 which depend from Claim 1.

**Claim 8**, in the spirit of Claim 1, recites:

(a)     providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

(b)     acquiring an access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client;

(c)     presenting to the client a production interface for the first production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting first

production data identifying a target document and one or more production options;

(d)    placing in a queue the first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the first production data being directed to the first production device;

(e)    placing in the queue second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;

(f)    generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue;

(g)    presenting the queue interface to the client;

(h)    generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface; and

(i)    presenting the status interface to the client.

       To summarize, Claim 8 recites placing first and second production data in a queue where the first production data is directed to a first production device and the second production data is directed to a second production device. A queue interface is generated. The queue interface has user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue. A status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface is also generated.

       As explained with respect to Claims 1, Ferlitsch and Aiello fail to teach or suggest the generation of a queue interface and a status interface in the particular manner recited by Claims 1 and 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 8 and Claims 9 and 11-13 which depend from Claim 8. Claim 10 has been cancelled.

       **Claim 14** is directed to a computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 14 and Claims 15 and 17-19 which depend from Claim 14.

Claim 20 is directed to a computer program product for mediating access to production devices. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so are Claim 20 and Claims 21 and 23-25 which depend from Claim 20.

Claim 26 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites elements for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 26 and Claims 27-31 which depend from Claim 26.

Claim 32 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites the following elements for implementing the method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so are Claim 32 and Claims 34-38 which depend from Claim 32. Claim 33 was cancelled

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,
Shell Sterling Simpson, et al.

By _____/Jack H. McKinney/_____
    Jack H. McKinney
    Reg. No. 45,685

October 16, 2007